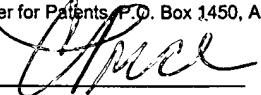


ZFW

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: January 14, 2005 Signature: 

Cheryl Y. Price

PATENT

393032043900

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Kotaro TERADA et al.

Serial No.: 10/796,544

Filing Date: March 8, 2004

For: AUDIO SIGNAL PROCESSING DEVICE

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: 2463

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 & 1.98**

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

The documents listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08a/b were cited in an International Search Report mailed on December 15, 2004 (copy attached) directed to a counterpart foreign application. A certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1) follows:

I hereby certify that each item of information was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

- With the application; accordingly, no fee or separate requirements are required.
- Before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under § 1.114. However, if applicable, a certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (e)(1) has been provided.
- Within three months of the application filing date or before mailing of a first Office Action on the merits; accordingly, no fee or separate requirements are required. However, if applicable, a certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (e)(1) has been provided.
- After receipt of a first Office Action on the merits but before mailing of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance.
 - A fee is required. A check in the amount of __ is enclosed.
 - A fee is required. Accordingly, a Fee Transmittal form (PTO/SB/17) is attached to this submission in duplicate.
 - A Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is provided above; accordingly; no fee is believed to be due.
- After mailing of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the issue fee.
 - A Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is provided above and a check in the amount of __ is enclosed.
 - A Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is provided above and a Fee Transmittal form (PTO/SB/17 is attached to this submission in duplicate.)

Applicants would appreciate the Examiner initialing and returning the Form PTO/SB/08a/b, indicating that the information has been considered and made of record herein.

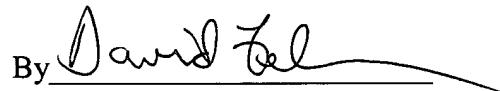
The information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and § 1.98 is not to be construed as a representation that: (i) a complete search has been made; (ii) additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist;

(iii) the information, protocols, results and the like reported by third parties are accurate or enabling; or (iv) the above information constitutes prior art to the subject invention.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal form is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief (such as payment of a fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (p)) is required, Applicants petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing **(393032043900)**. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: January 14, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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Substitute for form 1449/PTO				Complete If Known	
				Application Number	10/796,544
				Filing Date	March 8, 2004
				First Named Inventor	Kotaro TERADA
				Art Unit	2463
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	393032043900

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
AA	US-4,291,604		09-29-1981	Scott	
AB	US-4,479,240		10-23-1984	McKinley, Jr.	
AC	US-5,243,513		09-07-1993	Peters	
AD	US-6,438,241 B1		08-20-2002	Silfvast	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
BA	WO-WO 91/18456		11-28-1991	Artemis Technology Limited	
BB	EP-0 251 646		01-07-1988	Amek Systems and Controls Ltd.	

*EXAMINER: Initial if information considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.			T ²

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